

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01695 251308Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 EPG-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01
CEA-01 ACDA-07 COME-00 IGA-02 FRB-03 /094 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3212

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1695

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MASS
SUBJECT: NEW GOB AID APPROACH

1. AT HIS REQUEST, I CALLED ON MINEXAFF FORDE THIS MORNING (JULY 22) TO DISCUSS THE GOB'S RECENT REQUESTS FOR US BILATERAL ASSISTANCE MADE TO UNDERSEC HABIB AND ASST. SEC. TODMAN. (THE MINISTER WAS JOINED IN HIS PRESENTATION BY DR. GEORGE REID, PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE; GILBERT MILLAR, PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE AND SECURITY; AND OLIVER JACKMAN, BARBADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US) I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING AID AFF OFFICER AND ECON/COMM OFFICER.) FORDE EXPLAINED HIS REASON FOR APPROACHING US NOW RATHER THAN WAITING FOR AMBASSADOR ORTIZ TO ARRIVE BY NOTING THAT THE SECOND PARLIAMENTARY READING OF A BILL TRANSFERRING THE SITE OF THE NAVAL FACILITY FROM THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO "THE CROWN" (I.E. THE GOB) WAS SCHEDULED FOR 26 JULY. THE BILL'S READING COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO TRIGGER A GENERAL DEBATE ON THE FACILITY LEASE AND FORDE WISHED TO BE ABLE TO CITE FORWARD MOMENTUM ON THE GOB'S AID REQUESTS SHOULD THE OPPOSITION TAKE THE LINE THAT THE FACILITY BROUGHT BARBADOS NO BENEFITS.

2. THE MINISTER MENTIONED THREE AREAS OF CONCERN TO THE
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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01695 251308Z

GOB WHERE THE USG MIGHT BE HELPFUL; TRAINING PLUS EQUIPMENT (APPROXIMATELY US \$4 MILLION) FOR BOTH THE COAST GUARD AND THE BARBADOS REGIMENT (THIS COUNTRY'S VOLUNTEER RESERVE "ARMY") TECHNICAL AID; AND "PROGRAM" AS OPPOSED TO "PROJECT" AID. THE LATTER WAS MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTINUING PRESSURE ON THE GOB'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. FORDE FRANKLY STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO DESIRE TO

LINK PROGRAM AID TO THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM, THE
GOB SAW AID INFLOWS AS A DEFINITE ASSIST IN THIS REGARD.

3. IN CONCLUSION, FORDE RETURNED TO WHAT IS BECOMING A FAVORITE
DOUBLE THEME HERE--FIRST THAT BARBADOS NEEDS AND DESERVES
U.S. AID IN SPITE OF ITS RELATIVELY HIGH PER CAPITA GNP AND
SECOND, THE GOB FAILS TO GET BILATERAL AID (LIKE JAMAICA
AND GUYANA) BECAUSE THE GOB IS "TOO GOOD A FRIEND"
AND DOESN'T ACT NASTY THIRD-WORLD STYLE. HE ALSO ALLUDED
IN THIS CONTEXT TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE NAVAL FACILITY HERE.

4. FORDE MENTIONED THAT THE GOB WAS PREPARED TO CARRY ITS
CASE FOR AID TO THE HILL, IF NEED BE. (AFTER THE MEETING
JACKMAN MADE THE SAME POINT TO THE ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER
BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW FAR HIS GOVERNMENT
COULD AND SHOULD GO IN LOBBYING THE U.S. CONGRESS.)

5. AT MY REQUEST, MILLAR AGREED TO PROVIDE WRITTEN LIST OF
COAST GUARD AND REGIMENT NEEDS.

6. WHILE EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR BARBADOS' PROBLEMS, I MADE
NO COMMITMENTS IMPLIED OR EXPLICIT. MOREOVER, I NOTED THAT
BEFORE ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE COULD BE PROVIDED, BARBADOS
WOULD HAVE TO BE INCLUDED ON LIST OF COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE TO
RECEIVE SUCH ASSISTANCE.

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PAGE 03 BRIDGE 01695 251308Z

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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TAGS: PGOV, EAID, MASS, BB, (REID, GEORGE), (MILLAR, GILBERT)
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